



Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Ackert, and the members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I am Scott Fanning, the President of the Connecticut Franchisee Association. Our association represents owners of Dunkin' restaurants in Connecticut. Connecticut Dunkin' franchises are owned directly by your constituents, small business owners and family businesses that have been built locally for decades.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 6859 An Act Concerning Predictable Scheduling.

Our concern with HB 6859, as currently drafted, is that as small business owners who operate in a similar fashion to any other small business in our state, we believe we are being singled out because our member franchisees opened businesses that have national recognition. Many argue that franchises are not the same as a non-franchise business. This is simply not the case. Every franchise owner has had to sacrifice the same amount of work, time, effort, and financial risk to build their individual businesses. Yes, some franchisees may own more than one restaurant, but just like every other restaurant, all started with one location. Singling franchisees out from other restaurants in this legislation is patently unfair and discriminatory.

Our members have made the same investments in our communities as other restaurants not affected by this proposed legislation and have experienced the same difficulties faced by all as we remained opened during the pandemic.

It is important to note how similar our businesses operate to a non-franchise restaurant. In fact, the main difference is that franchisees risk buying into a brand and pay for the right to operate under a brand name. Specifically, our members took the same risk of putting up their own capital to open their locations; operate as independent corporate entities or LLCs; make all investments individually; are responsible for payroll like their competitors; are responsible for all the same compliance requirements as their competitors; pay for any advertising and marketing; and most importantly, employ and serve CT residents.

We respectfully ask that you oppose this bill or amend the language to remove franchisees like us from the bill.

Thank you,

Scott Fanning
President of the Connecticut Franchisee Association